

## **ASSOCIATE NURSING STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARD NURSING PROFESSION IN JORDAN**

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### **Abstract**

The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession are vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the health care industry (Annelie Meiring, 2010). This study design to overview the image of nursing among associate nursing students in south Jordan. The study was conducted on Balqa Applied University, Jordan, Karak and Aqaba college branches, Faculty of Nursing for student enrolled in associate nursing program. Three main parts were selected, profession view, dependent and independent order of work and personal growth. The data collected through self-administered questionnaire containing three major parts: The first part is the sociodemographic characteristics; the second part is image of nursing; the third part is social rank of job. The study involved a randomly selected 100 students from both sites, 68 questionnaires were analyzed by (SPSS)15. Descriptive Statistics were done using numbers, percentage, arithmetic mean ,standered deviation and one sample test. The study showed that the associate nursing students generally have a significance positive perceptions about the image of the nursing profession. The highest percentage of study subjects joined the faculty of nursing because of financial reasons/ availability of work. Majority of the students feel proud when talking with others about nursing profession. The relationship with medical members and the family member opinion have the greatest effect in changing the image of nursing profession. This study concluded that a majority of the respondents preferred teaching institution and bedside nursing after the graduation.

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**Keywords:** Perception, nursing students, nursing image, nursing profession

### **Introduction**

The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession are vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the healthcare industry (Annelie 2010). Waters believes

that nurses are the backbone of the healthcare sector and are fundamental in the delivery of quality care for all the inhabitants of a country (Waters, A.2005).

Nursing students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into the nursing career (Davis, f.1975). A small number of research studies that addressed the impact of nursing students' perceptions of the public image of nursing were found (ClaraB.2007). Although nursing students' perception of nursing and factors influencing it were well investigated in the West, this was less examined in the Arab Islamic region. In Jordan, little is known about Jordanian student nurses' perception of nursing (Safadi R.R.*et al.*, 2011). Nursing students' perceptions of nursing might have an impact on their self-concept, self-esteem, recruitment, retention, and performance (Clara B. 2007). An understanding of students' perception and its evolvement during the course of the study can assist nurse educators in evaluating the educational program's strengths and weaknesses. This understanding can enhance curricular development towards a caring and holistic paradigm of nursing. Moreover, it will add to the body of knowledge of nursing education, especially in relation to admission processes, by examining specific personal factors that influence students' perceptions. (SafadiR.R.*et al* 2011).

#### **Aim of the Study:**

This study aims to describe the associate nursing students' perception about the image of the nursing profession

#### **Research Questions:**

- 1: What is the perception of associate nursing students of the image of the nursing profession?
- 2: What is the rank of the nursing profession from the perspective of associate nursing students?
- 3: What is the feeling of associate nursing students toward nursing profession?
- 4: What are the main reasons for enrollment to the faculty of nursing?
- 5: How much the factors affecting the perception of nursing profession of associate nursing students after joining Faculty of Nursing contribute to the change in perception of nursing profession?
- 6: What is the job prospective of associate nursing students?

#### **Definition of terms**

The concept 'nursing' is more than a definition (Mason-Whitehead, E.*et al*2000). It is part of a particular group's framework of communication, their language, and, thus, a

reflection of who nurses are. This definition also carries a person's perception (Safadi R.R. *et al* 2011).

Whatever notion or idea best describes nursing and whatever set of activities it is defined, it is clear that there are different perceptions of nursing. Perception by itself is merely defined as an idea, belief, or an image you have as a result of how you see or understand something (A.S.Hornbey, 2000). More importantly, perception of nursing may vary depending on age, educational level, social and professional experience and occupational and social factors (Lliya Wondwossen 2011).

The Oxford English Dictionary (2010) defined perception as one's awareness and understanding of sensory information attained through interplay between past experiences, one's own culture and the interpretation of the perceived (Safadi R.R. *et al.*, 2011).

Degree Nursing Student: A student enrolled in an institution of higher learning Based nursing program that is approximately two years in length (Clara B. 2007).

Image of Nursing: The sum of beliefs, ideas, and impressions that people have of nurses And nursing" (Clara B 2007).

### **Literature Review**

The image of both nurses and nursing has been the focus of a number of research projects globally (Huffstutler, S.Y. *et al*, 1998).

The image of nursing has changed and developed throughout the history and the outward image of nursing has changed remarkably within the past 50 years (Abdel EL-Halem, *et al* 2000). The public's opinions towards the nursing career seem to be non constructive (Ref. no: 11), (.Rossiter JC *et al*). and ( Prater L, McEwen M. 2006.). The reasons for this problem include salary, the changing nature of jobs (Anurag B. Patidar *et al* 2011). One needs to go no further back than the mid to late 18th century to find records indicating that nursing remained in the hands of the uneducated and sometimes undesirables who were largely women and whose numbers were not sufficient to meet the needs of all requiring care. Prior to the 18th century, the image of nursing was that of "an inferior, undesirable occupation" (Clara B. 2007). In nineteenth century, people gradually began to accept nursing as a respectable profession in the society due to the effect of Ms. Florence Nightingale. At that time, nursing was seen as employment that needed neither study nor intelligence. (Degazon CE. *et al*, 2007), (AL-Omar BA. 2004), ( Rossiter JC. Bidewell J. *et al* 1998), (Neilson GR. *et al* 2008). and Rossiter JC, Foong A. *et al* )

Some countries in the Middle East, such as Bahrain and Jordan, were satisfied with the image of nursing, but still lacked appeal and prestige. Jordan has had a unique experience

in improving its nursing image and has significantly increased the number of highly educated nurses who participated actively in organizing the profession by setting the Jordanian Code of Ethics. Her Royal Highness, Princess Mona Al-Hussein the President of the JNC Jordanian nursing council said that “Recently, nursing in Jordan started to enjoy more public respect and confidence. The last decade witnessed significant landmarks in capacity building in nursing education and service and in the improvement of nurses image and status” (Raghda Shukri, 2005).

Generally, nursing schools were perceived as simply training students to carry out physicians’ orders (World health organization,2000).In addition, in most Arab countries, nursing has been generally restricted to the area of maternal care provided by “dayas” (the ancient sisterhood of midwives) (Jansen M. 1974).

Although nursing students’ perception of nursing and factors influencing it were well investigated in the West, this was less examined in the Arab Islamic region. In Jordan, little is known about Jordanian student nurses’ perception of nursing (Safadi R.R..*et al*, 2011). In addition, Studies the perception of associate nursing students about the image of nursing are very rare.

Nursing students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into the nursing career (Davis,F.).

Students have a wide range of pre-existing perceptions about nursing. A study of 1000 American nursing students reported that students believed nursing to be physically challenging and that there is inadequate respect and recognition of nursing (Buerhaus P..*et al* 2005). Other studies reported that nursing students recognize nursing as a caring profession and as an opportunity to help people gain a better health (Beck C 2012 )and( O'Brien F..*et al* 2007). Nursing students also viewed nursing as a noble and well-regarded career path and one which requires strength, patience and compassion (Spouse J 2000 )and( Cook T..*et al* 2003). Apart from the traditional perception of nursing as caring, a longitudinal study that examined nursing students’ perceptions of nursing showed that students considered nursing as a profession based on scientific knowledge and requires expertise in nursing and responsibility. They also viewed nursing as a ‘medical-technical’ activity (Buerhaus P..*et al* 2005).

The influence of role models in choosing nursing as a career was also reported(Sand-Jecklin K..*et al*, 2006). Kelly (1992) pointed that the amount of exposure to professional role

models during the years of study contributed to enhanced professional role identity and that early experiences were important in the enhancement of professionalism (Kelly,B1992).

A number of studies found that having family members as nurses were important motives for undertaking nursing (Beck C. 2012),( Rheaume A.*et al*, 2003) and (Larsen P McGill J. *et al* 2003). Friends, parents and other family members had a positive influence on students' perceptions of nursing (Buerhaus P.*et al* 2005) and (Williams B.*et al*1997)

Admission to nursing programs in Jordan is competitive and based on high school grades. In Jordanian universities, a student may rank choices for college education, with nursing as a first, second or last choice. This arbitrary acceptance into a discipline that the applicant may not have prioritized could potentially allow an applicant into nursing without a keen desire to become a nurse, but rather to obtain a college education (Safadi R.R,*et al* 2011).

Previous research studies, reported that most students decided to join nursing profession because they had a desire to help others, and nursing was perceived as caring and serving humanity job; on contrary, Lai HL *et al* 2006 conducted a study in Taiwan and found that 65.4% of the nursing students would not choose nursing as career after graduation. Attitude of junior nursing students toward their future profession was alarming. Many of the students were not planning to practice nursing at bedside nor did they consider quality bedside care a priority for their career (Lisa M. Pugsly 2005). The students most frequently reported choosing nursing because of the availability of career opportunities, jobs security, salary, and interest in nursing. In their study, students identified pursuing further education as a career goal followed by 'doing one's best in nursing (Sand-Jecklin K.*et al* 2006). Another study showed that students choose to study nursing because it offered work abroad and opportunities for further professional development (Williams B.*et al* 1997).

Several research studies reported that most of the nursing graduates are reluctant to join bedside nursing and those who joined it has not right attitude towards the profession (Anurag B. Patidar *et al* 2011). Each year of nursing study presents its own specific challenges and expectations of the profession. The negative experience of nursing students during clinical practice was a major contributor to the reasons why students choose to leave their chosen future profession. It is not possible to over emphasize the necessity for a stable workforce (Last,L.&Fullbrook,P.2003).

## **Material and Methods**

### **Research design**

This is an exploratory descriptive study.

### **Setting**

The study was conducted at the following settings:

The classes of the two academic years at the Faculty of Nursing, Balqa Applied University, Jordan, Among 7 branches of this university, Aqaba, and Karak branches were selected to conduct this study.

### **Subjects**

The study involved 100 associate nursing students who were randomly selected from the two academic years within the academic year 2011-2012 in Aqaba, and Karak branches of *Balqa Applied University*., the number of respondents was 68.

### **Tool for data collection**

Self Administered Questionnaire was used for data collection. It comprised three parts:

#### **Part I**

This part included questions related to sociodemographic characteristics of the study subjects such as sex, age, nationality, marital status, reasons for enrollment to the faculty of nursing, and family's reaction to students' enrollment.

#### **Part II**

It is used to explore nursing image among associate nursing students. It is a Likert scale format that contains 22 statements answered on a 5 point scale of response: agree=4, strongly agree= 5, not sure=3, disagree=2, strongly disagree=1.

#### **Part III:**

This part included questions related to social rank of job, feeling about nursing as a profession, change in nursing image after joining Faculty of Nursing, and Job Prospective.

### **Methods**

The study was executed according to the following steps:

Official permission to conduct this study was obtained from the dean of the faculty of nursing, *Balqa Applied University*. The tool used in this study was developed by the researcher after reviewing the relevant and current literature. The purpose of the study was explained to each student and oral consent to participate in the study was obtained from him. The questionnaire was translated to Arabic language to avoid any possible confusion.

Data was collected through questionnaires that were distributed among the subjects. The data was collected for a period of 2 months.

## Statistical analysis

Data was fed, coded, edited and analyzing using PC with statistical packages for social science (SPSS) version 15 for windows. Descriptive statistics were done using numbers, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and one sample test.

## Results

### General Characteristics of the Subjects

**Table (1)** shows that nearly two-thirds (69.1%) of the subjects were males and about one-third (30.9. %) of them were females. More than one-half (54.4%) are in the age group 18-20 years. While (29.4%) of the participants are less than 18 years old, (16.2%) are more than 20 years old.

The majority of the subjects (92.6%) are Jordanians and singles (95.6%).

More than one third (41.2%) of the study subjects did join the faculty of nursing due to financial reasons/availability of work and (30.9%) did so due to their average in the secondary school. (20.6%) of the subjects did join the faculty of nursing according to their families' advice. The desire to help others was the reasons for (7.4 %) of the subjects. The majority of the subjects (80.9%) had a family member or a friend in the nursing profession. Majority of the subjects' family reaction (92.6%) was positive.

**Table No. (1)** Percent distribution of the study subjects according to their general characteristics

General characteristics	N	%
Sex		
- Males	47	69.1
- Females	21	30.9
Age (years)		
- < 18	20	29.4
- 18-20	37	54.4
- > 20	11	16.2
Nationality		
- Jordanians	63	92.6
- Others	5	7.4
Marital Status		
- Single	65	95.9
- Married	3	4.4
- Divorced	-	-
Reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing		
- Secondary School Grade	21	30.9
- Desire to help others	5	7.4
- Financial reasons/Availability of work	28	41.2
- Advice from family members	14	20.6
Do you have a nurse friend or relative?		
- Yes	55	80.9
- No	13	19.1
Family's reaction to students' enrollment:		
- Positive	63	92.6
- Negative	5	7.4
- Neutral	-	-

Regarding the research question number (1) “what is the perception of associate nursing students of the image of the nursing profession?”, data in **table (2)** show that - excluding items No.3, 4, 11, 17, and 19 - , all items have a mean more than 3.00 with P value < 0.05 which are statistically significant. Item No. 6 (Nursing is a prestigious profession) occupied the 1<sup>st</sup> rank with mean as (4.87). Item No. 1 (Nursing is a respectful profession) occupied the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank with mean as (3.6). Table (2) also reveals that nursing profession is a human profession, caring profession in which ethical standards of care is maintained, a profession that helps in promotion of health and prevention of diseases, an essential profession in any society ,a well appreciated profession in the society, significant in patient's recovery, a profession that provides self actualization, “nurses obey doctors’ orders without questioning them”, “nurses are given a chance to use their own initiative in their work”, a profession that actually equals to other professions, “I would like my child to become a nurse”, a dangerous profession, an extremely hard profession that does not receive enough appreciation, a profession that provides opportunities for personal growth. The items No.3, 4, 11, 17, and 19 have a mean less than 3.0 which means that nursing is not a women's profession, not similar to that of the servants' job, not independent profession by which nurses make decisions for themselves, and nurses do not waste a lot of time being busy doing nothing

**Table (2)** Perceptions of Nursing as a Profession

No.	Nursing Profession is:	Mean	SD	T-Value	P Value
1.	A respectful profession	4.60	0.49	26.82	0.00
2.	An occupation and not a profession	3.79	1.20	5.44	0.00
3.	A Women's profession	2.29	1.01	-5.77	0.00
4.	Similar to that of the servants' job.	1.54	1.11	-10.80	0.00
5.	A well appreciated profession in the society	4.35	0.48	23.17	0.00
6.	A prestigious profession	4.87	0.34	45.11	0.00
7.	A dangerous profession	3.66	1.20	4.83	0.00
8.	An extremely hard profession that does not receive enough appreciation	3.65	1.32	4.03	0.00
9.	An essential profession in any society	4.38	0.49	23.28	0.00
10.	Nursing is a human profession	4.56	0.50	25.70	0.00
11.	An independent profession by which nurses make decisions for themselves	2.43	0.90	-5.24	0.00
12.	A significant in patient's recovery	4.35	0.59	18.83	0.00
13.	Helping in promotion of health and prevention of diseases	4.49	0.63	19.30	0.00
14.	Provide self actualization	3.84	0.91	7.61	0.00
15.	Nurses are given a chance to use their own initiative in their work	4.07	0.97	9.16	0.00
16.	Nurses obey doctors’ orders without questioning them	4.26	0.91	11.49	0.00

17.	Nurses waste a lot of time being busy doing nothing	1.63	0.62	- 18.17	0.00
18.	I would like my child to become a nurse	3.75	1.30	4.77	0.00
19.	Anyone could be a nurse easy	2.65	1.29	-2.26	0.00
20.	opportunity for personal growth	4.29	0.79	13.46	0.00
21.	Caring profession in which ethical standards of care is maintained	4.56	0.50	25.70	0.00
22.	Actually equal to other professions	4.03	1.25	6.82	0.00
<b>Total</b>		4.60	0.49	26.82	0.00

Regarding the research question number (2) “what is the social rank of the nursing profession from the perspective of associate nursing students?” **table (3)** shows the rank of the social status of the nursing profession in the society. Among the mentioned professions, (38.24%) of the subjects ranked nursing profession as third, (16.18%) as second, (13.24%) as first, (5.88%) as fifth, (1.47%) as sixth. The mean for ranking for the nursing profession among all other ten professions is (2.98).

**Table (3)** Rank of Social Status of the Nursing Profession

Rank	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	mean
Frequency	9.0	11	26	17	4	1	-	-	-	-	2.98
%	13.24	16.18	38.24	25.00	5.88	1.47	-	-	-	-	-----

Regarding the research question number (3) “what is the feeling of associate nursing students toward nursing profession?”, **table (4)** reveals that the feeling of nursing students about nursing profession when talking with others. Majority of the students (80.9%) feel proud, about (15%) were defensive about nursing. While small percentages of them were either shy or change the topic (2.9% and 1.5%) respectively, no one of them attacked the profession.

**Table (4)** Feeling of nursing students about nursing profession when talking with others.

Feeling of nursing students	Frequency	%
Proud	55	80.9
Shy	2	2.9
Change topic	1	1.5
Defensive	10	14.7
Attack nursing profession	0	0

Regarding the research question number (4) “How much the factors affecting the perception of nursing profession of associate nursing students after joining faculty of nursing contribute to the change in perception of nursing profession?”, **table (5)** shows that of the subjects` image was improved after enrollment to the faculty of nursing. The average for positive change in the image of nursing was (57.55%) and due to relationship with medical members (77.9%), public view about nursing (69.1%), clinical training (64.7%), working

conditions (58.8%), relationship with faculty members and relationship with the friends (45.9% for each), and family member opinion (41.2%).

Table (5) shows also that of the subjects` image was changed negatively after enrollment to faculty of nursing due to the following reasons: family member opinion (33.8%), working conditions (29.4%), relationship with the friends and public view about nursing (23.8% for each), clinical training (14.7%), relationship with faculty members (11.8%) and relationship with medical members (7.4%).

**Table (5)** Distribution of the study subjects according to the factors that change nursing image after joining Faculty of Nursing

Change in Nursing Image after Joining Faculty of Nursing				
Factor	To Better*		To Worse*	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Working conditions	40	58.8	20	29.4
Clinical training	44	64.7	10	14.7
Effect of faculty members	31	45.6	8	11.8
Relationship with medical staff	53	77.9	5	7.4
Relationship with friends	31	45.6	16	23.5
Family member opinion	28	41.2	23	33.8
Public view about nursing	47	69.1	16	23.5
Average		57.55%		15.8%

\* More than one- answer

Regarding the research question number (5) “What is the job prospective of associate nursing students?”, **Table (6)** shows job prospective for nursing students after graduation. More than one third (38.2%) preferred teaching institution, less than one third (26.5%) preferred bedside nursing, while (14.7%) preferred nursing administration, (17.6%) plan for higher education, and only (2.9 %) plan change the profession.

**Table (6)** Job Prospective for Nursing Students after Graduation

*Job Prospective	Ye s	%	N o	%	Not Sure	%	Correla tion Value	P - Valu e
✓ <b>Plan to join after graduation/diploma:</b>								
• Teaching institution	26	38.2	37	54.4	5	7.4	0.10	0.93
• Bedside nursing	18	26.5	9	13.2	41	60.3	0.35	0.003
• Nursing Administration	10	14.7	28	41.2	30	44.1	-0.09	0.44
✓ <b>Plan for higher education</b>	12	17.6	10	14.7	46	67.6	0.15	0.21
✓ <b>Plan change the profession</b>	2	2.9	54	79.4	12	17.6	0.02	0.85
<b>Total</b>							0.27	0.11

\* More than one- answer

## Discussion

The purpose of the current study was to describe the associate nursing students' perception about the image of the nursing profession at faculty of nursing, Balqa Applied University. Except for the item "An independent profession by which nurses make decisions for themselves" and the item "nurses obey doctors' orders without questioning them", in the 22 Likert scale items, the study indicated that the associate nursing students generally have positive perceptions about the image of the nursing profession. The findings related to the students' perception are statistically significant. This finding is consistent with many studies in Belgium-2010 (Milisen K *et al* 2010), Egypt- 2006 (FatemaBaddar,2006), (Abdlkarim N *et al*,2004), Bahrain, 2012 (Tawash Eman *et al*,2012), and USA, 1991 (Mendez D &other,1991), in Pennsylvania-1994 (Streudert HJ,1994), and in India (Lisa M Pugsly,2005).

This positive image about nursing profession is reflected also in the students' ranking of nursing and their feeling toward nursing profession (Nursing is ranked as third by more than one third of the students and (80.9%) are proud of nursing and no one of the subjects attacked it).

The study revealed that the highest percentage of study subjects joined the faculty of nursing because of financial reasons/ availability of work (41.2%). The study of Streubert, 1994 in Pennsylvania, revealed that nursing was attractive because of job opportunities, security and availability. This is also supported by AbdlKarim *et al.*, 2004 in Egypt. They found that around two-thirds of their subjects haven chosen nursing as it represented a good opportunity for them to work. Buerhaus *et al.*, 2005, (U.S.A) reported that slightly more than three quarters of the subjects joined nursing because of availability of work. Sand-Jecklin and Schaffer,2006 in added that students most frequently reported choosing nursing because of the availability of career opportunities, jobs security, salary, and interest in nursing. Another study showed that students choose to study nursing because it offered work abroad and opportunities for further professional development (Williams B *et al* 1997)

Due to the low economic status in developing countries as Jordan, it is expected that more men will choose nursing as a career because nursing offers stable employment with high salaries. Nursing profession also drives students to work outside the country. In addition, it may be due to cultural values in Arab countries where males assume great responsibilities and it was expected to be the main reason for entering the nursing profession since the graduates are automatically hired and have the opportunities to work abroad whether in Arab or western countries. However, this result is dissimilar to the results of (Gamel R. 2006) in

Egypt where availability of work and financial reward were the least mentioned reasons among her subjects, as the subjects of such study were female nursing students.

Moreover, findings indicated that the second highest reason mentioned by the study subjects was the secondary school grade. In this respect, (Abu- Gharibeh and Siluman, 1992), stated that the poor image of nursing, combined with university admission policies, in which, students are assigned to various faculties based on their secondary school grade.

Admission to nursing programs in Jordan is competitive and based on high school grades. In Jordanian universities, a student may rank choices for college education, with nursing as a first, second or last choice. This arbitrary acceptance into a discipline that the applicant may not have prioritized could potentially allow an applicant into nursing without a keen desire to become a nurse, but rather to obtain a college education (Safadi R.R. *et al* 2011).

More than one-fifth of the study subjects stated that an advice from a family member was the main reason for joining the profession. This may be attributed to the fact that a considerable number of family members, friends who were nurses as the present study revealed. These results are supported by (El Sharkawy and El Hadad, 1996) who studied "*factors affecting students' choice of nursing as a career in Egypt and Syria*". They found that the family members had the significant impact on the choice of nursing as a career. The study of (Kelly *et al.*, 1996) in Chicago reported that family members were the most encouraging forces to their entering nursing and was the main source of moral support during the years of schooling. These findings were confirmed, as the positive family reaction to joining the faculty of nursing represents 92.6% of the subjects in this study. (Heath P, 2001) stated that young students may be applying to nursing programs as a response to parents' dream instead of their own and the majority of the subjects (80.9%) had a family member or a friend in the nursing profession. The results of this study regarding reasons for enrollment to the faculty of nursing is consistent to the results of many studies (Williams B *et al* 1997),(Tawash Eman *et al* 2004)&(EL-Sharkawy F *et al* 1996) that showed that parents and friends were very powerful motivators for them to join nursing.

The results of the present study showed positive changes in the image of nursing as a profession among more than half of the study subjects. Results of the present study showed also that the relationship with medical members has the greatest positive effect and the lowest negative effect in the change in the image of nursing. This may be due to the clinical environment increasing interaction between the students and the medical staff. This study also showed that the family member opinion has the greatest negative effect and the lowest

positive effect in the change in the image of nursing. Working conditions was the second reason for the negative influence among the study subjects. This may be due to uncomfortable working environment, exposure to hazards whether physical or emotional, lack of facilities and resources, and the gap between theories taught and the actual practices in governmental hospitals (Abdel EL- Halem *et al* 2011).

This study also showed that a majority of the respondents preferred teaching institution, and bedside nursing. Nurses choose their carrier as a teacher in college of nursing as it provides them some autonomy in their work, increase job satisfaction, higher professional recognition and better salary (M Chauvette *et al* 2044)&(Anurag B *et al* 2011). The reason behind preferring bed side nursing the may be that most of the students want to satisfy economic needs of their family on priority basis and jobs in bed side nursing are easily available (Anurag B *et al* 2011). The present study explored that most of the nursing students were not interested to change their profession; our finding is consistent with previous published research Study (Abdel EL-Halem *et L* 2011),(Tawash Eman *et al* 2012)&( Anurag B *et al* 2011)

### **Conclusion**

This study is seminal in being the first to report on associate nursing students perceptions about the nursing profession in Jordan. The study concluded that the associate nursing students generally have positive perceptions about the image of the nursing profession. The perception of nursing profession among nursing students is changing towards positive side.

While the relationship with medical members has the greatest positive effect and the lowest negative effect in the change in the image of nursing, the family member opinion has the greatest negative effect and the lowest positive effect in the change in the image of nursing. The highest percentage of study subjects joined the faculty of nursing because of financial reasons/ availability of work. This study concluded that a majority of the respondents preferred teaching institution and bedside nursing after the graduation.

### **Recommendation**

The study recommends conducting further studies on the perception of the associate nursing students in other different regions in Jordan and to include the associate nursing students in the studies conducted for Bachelorette students.

According to this study, the opinions of family members about nursing have influenced career decision making of their children, and so it is necessary to plan recruitment

strategies that not alone attract nursing candidates, but also influence the perceptions of parents.

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## APPENDIX

### Perception of Nursing Profession among Nursing Students Students' Questionnaire

**Dear Students,**

The nurses are the backbone of the healthcare sector and are fundamental in the delivery of quality care for all the inhabitants of a country. The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession are vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the healthcare industry. The findings of this study will be used to describe the perception of nursing students of image of nursing and the reasons behind this image and will provide opportunities for improvement that will ultimately contribute to promoting nursing profession in Jordan. Thank you kindly for your time and attention to this questionnaire.

**This questionnaire is anonymous and confidentiality of your responses is guaranteed.**

#### Part One

<b>Gender</b>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Age</b>	Younger than 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-20	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Specify .....	
<b>Nationality</b>	Jordanian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	<input type="checkbox"/>	specify .....	
<b>Marital status</b>	Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	Married	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing</b>	Secondary School Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	Desire to help others	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial reasons/ Availability of work <input type="checkbox"/>	Advice from family members <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Stream in the secondary school</b>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vocational Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Do you have a nurse friend or relative?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Family's reaction to students' enrollment:</b>	Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Part Two

### Perceptions of Nursing as a Profession

**Please indicate to what extent you agree with these statement:**

Perceptions of Nursing as a Profession						
No.	Nursing Profession is:	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
23.	A respectful profession					
24.	An occupation and not a profession					
25.	A Women's profession					
26.	Similar to that of the servants' job.					
27.	A well appreciated profession in the society					
28.	A prestigious profession					
29.	A dangerous profession					
30.	An extremely hard profession that does not receive enough appreciation					
31.	-An essential profession in any society					
32.	Nursing is a human profession					
33.	An independent profession by which nurses make decisions for themselves					
34.	A significant in patient's recovery					
35.	Helping in promotion of health and prevention of diseases					
36.	Provide self actualization					
37.	Nurses are given a chance to use their own initiative in their work					
38.	Nurses obey doctors' orders without questioning them					
39.	Nurses waste a lot of time being busy doing nothing					
40.	I would like my child to become a nurse					
41.	Anyone could be a nurse easy					
42.	opportunity for personal growth					
43.	Caring profession in which ethical standards of care is maintained					
44.	Actually equal to other professions					

### Part 3

➤ **Among these professions, please give social rank of job and feeling about nursing as a profession**

Physician, Pharmacist, Officer, Engineer, Teacher, Nurse, Journalist, Lawyer, Accountant, Artist

Your Rank is

➤ **Please tick (√) to indicate your feeling about nursing profession when talking with others:**

Proud

Shy

Change topic

Defensive

Attack nursing profession

### Change in nursing image after joining Faculty of Nursing

**Please tick (√) to indicate the factors contributing to the change to better**

-Working conditions	
-Clinical training	
-Effect of faculty members	
-Relationship with medical staff	
-Relationship with friends	
-Family member opinion	
-Public view about nursing	

**Please tick (√) to indicate the factors contributing to the change to worst**

-Working conditions	
-Clinical training	
-Effect of faculty members	
-Relationship with medical staff	
-Relationship with friends	
-Family member opinion	
-Public view about nursing	

Job Prospective	Yes	No	Not Sure
✓ <b>Plan to join after graduation/diploma:</b>			
• Teaching institution			
• Bedside nursing			
• Nursing Administration			
✓ <b>Plan for higher education</b>			
✓ <b>Plan change the profession</b>			